Export of coir and coir products

1787. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of export of coir and coir products in the last three years and the earning from such exports;

(b) whether coir industry is facing a crisis due to shortage of raw fibre; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL) : (a) Details of export of coir and coir products including the earning from such exports during the last three years is given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) The coir industry in the export oriented production centres at Alleppey (Kerala) is facing scarcity of coir fibre, of late. The industry is mainly dependent on Tamil Nadu for sourcing fibre and it is estimated that around 80,000 MT to 1,00,000 MT of coir fibre is annually transported from the places like Pollachi, Tenkasi, Cumbam, Theni and Nagercoil in Tamil Nadu to the export oriented production centres at Alleppey, Kerala. Supply of coir fibre by the production centres in Tamil Nadu to Kerala has come down as coir fibre is being increasingly exported. As against an export of coir fibre of 11,102 MT in 2007-2008, 19444 MT of coir fibre was exported during 2008-2009. In the current year, 18,262 MT of coir fibre has been exported till October, 2009 as compared to the export of 4,835 MT in the corresponding period of the previous year. In addition, there has been a slow down in the fibre production activities in Kerala due to a number of reasons like unattractive remuneration, drudgery in operation, awareness on the pollution aspects of the environment due to retting etc.

The scarcity of coir fibre has not so far been reported in other coir producing States like Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa though there appears to be some shortage in the curled coir industry in Tamil Nadu.

The recent situation of scarcity of coir fibre relates especially to the State of Kerala and it has been reported that the State Government is taking steps for establishing a Market Fluctuation fund to offset the increase in price of coir fibre supplied to manufacturers, revival of existing defibering units and arranging supply of coir fibre from other States. The Coir Board a statutory body under the administrative control of the Ministry of MSME has been asked to closely liaise with different coir fibre producing and consuming State Governments in arriving at a mutually acceptable working arrangement and also provide technical assistance for revival of defibering units in Kerala for mitigating the scarcity of coir fibre in Kerala.

Statement

Export of coir and coir products during April 2006 to March 2009

Product Name	2006-2007		2007-2008		2008-2009	
	Q	V	Q	V	Q	V
Curled Coir	1804.03	208.34	1279.99	152.06	1438.38	223.85
Coir Fibre	9356.54	1075.80	11101.64	1224.14	19443.54	2390.89
Coir Rugs	488.31	328.55	178.14	134.40	63.83	67.63
Coir Pith	67152.99	5382.07	83613.24	6384.77	96996.32	8462.30
Coir Rope	154.25	68.87	372.26	139.99	370.28	164.60
Coir Othersorts	119.31	66.04	57.02	57.83	50.50	19.03
Coir Yarn	9691.17	3161.57	8407.09	2666.90	5335.09	1925.92
GEO-Textiles	3044.51	1335.22	3364.72	1444.65	3251.52	1591.05
Handloom Mats	42986.07	27370.67	40917.35	24299.85	35553.43	23537.53
Handloom Matting	3642.27	2354.63	3013.71	1879.33	2368.45	1716.56
Powerloom Mats	246.21	168.84	75.06	52.69	54.21	40.06
Powerloommatting	104.75	85.11	115.82	88.30	87.52	85.09
Rubberised Coir	947.31	697.86	1120.35	852.19	1222.59	1174.77
Tufted Mats	29017.02	182213.02	33950.35	19910.98	33689.27	22598.15
TOTAL	168754.75	60516.59	187566.74	59288.08	199924.93	63997.43

MoU for construction of ROBs in Kerala

1788. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:
SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Kerala had discussed the matter of executing MoU for construction of some Railway Over Bridges (ROBs) with her Ministry; and

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) and (b) There is no latest communication from State Government in this regard. However, in the year 2002 a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was entered into between Railways and PWD of State Government of Kerala to execute 20 works, out of which 15 works have been commissioned. 24 more works were also entrusted to Road Building Development Corporation of Kerala (RBDCK) for execution by State Government.